genuineness of the manufacturers' advertised claims about their products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether cases falsifying the claims of the manufacturers about their products have come to the notice of the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) The BIS Specification for tooth paste is IS 6356:1993. Compliance to the requirements of this standard by all manufacturers has been made mandatory by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare by referring to this Standard in the schedule 'S' of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules.

The Bureau of Indian Standards also operates a voluntary certification marking scheme to check the quality of the products of corresponding Indian Standards.

Government have initiated steps to advise all the State Licensing Authorities to ensure that the companies manufacturing tooth pastes should not carry on their lables, any misleading and exaggerated claims concerning effectiveness of their products especially if they do not contain any germicidal agents or if the products are not taking care of deficiency of flouride or strengthening of the gums. They may also ensure that the products being sold in their State should be properly scrutinized to unearth cases of false claim. They may also develop a method to scientifically test the claims of various brands of tooth pastes to know the genuineness of the manufacturers' advertisement claims. Thus, based on such mechanism, appropriate action can be taken against the defaulters for not complying with the specified standards of advertisements/claims.

Export of Iron ore from Orissa

1273. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total export of Iron ore from Orissa during the Eighth Five Year Plan period, year-wise;

(b) the efforts made by the Government to increase the procurement of Iron ore from Barbil-Barjamda sector, Gandhamardan sector and Daitari areas for export purpose from Paradip port; and

(c) the details of the plan mooted for Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The total quantity of iron ore exported by MMTC from Paradip Port from Orissa during the Eighth Plan period is given below :

Year	Qty. Lakh tonnes
1992-93	12.85
1993-94	14.28
1994-95	18.81
1995-96	15.81
1996-97 (Upto Jan.'97)	6.46

(b) and (c) The efoforts made by MMTC to increase procurement from the region for export include among others easing of quantitative restriction on procurement, compensating mine owners for increase in diesel price; giving extra lead charges for procurement from mines beyond 25 Kms; and sharing exchange rate fluctuations with the mine owners. Durintg the 9th Plan period MMTC proposes to export 1 to 1.5 million tonnes of iron ore from the region.

KVIC

1274. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the interest rate on the loans extended to the State Khadi and Village Industries Boards from Khadi and Village Industries Commission has been increased to 17% from 4%;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation against this hike;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to review the interest rate and revoke the earlier position;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The loan given by KVIC to implementing agencies for Khadi development carry the rate of 4%. In the case of Village Industries, however, Margin Money Scheme has been introduced as per recommendations of the High Power Committee under the Chairmanship of the then Prime Minister, since the Interest Subsidy Scheme was not successful. Under Margin Money Scheme, 25 per cent of the funds required for projects up to Rs. 10 lakhs and at the rate of 10% of the additional amounts exceeding Rs. 10 lakhs up to Rs. 25 lakhs is given as Margin Money. The State KVIBs and institutions can avail the balance as credit from the Commercial Banks directly at market rate of interest. At present, this rate upto a loan of Rs. 25,000/- is only 12